

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

INFO FAA

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TAGS: OVIP, AV, PE

SUBJECT: US ANTI-HIJACKING AIRPORT SCREENING PROCEDURES

REF: LIMA 7932

1. FAA, NOTING FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ANTI-HIJACKING SAFETY MEASURES AT US AIRPORTS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT PRIVATE SECURITY SCREENING OF VIP PASSENGERS IS POSSIBLE IF SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE OF TRAVEL IS PROVIDED. ALL PASSENGERS BOARDING COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IN US, HOWEVER, MUST BE SCREENED.

2. AIRPORT SCREENING IS REQUIRED BY ANTI-HIJACKING LAW (PL 93-366) SIGNED AUGUST 5, 1974. EARLIER IT HAD BEEN BASED UPON PRESIDENTIAL ORDER. THE LAW PERMITS NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE PROCEDURE AND SUBJECTS AIRLINES TO 1000 DOLLAR FINE FOR EACH BREACH.

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3. ON JUNE 25, 1974 DEPARTMENT TRANSMITTED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN WASHINGTON (INCLUDING THAT OF PERU) A CIRCULAR NOTE CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SECURITY PROCEDURES.

4. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE, WHICH MAY BE OF USE TO THE EMBASSY IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOLLOWS.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THEIR EXCELLENCIES AND MESSIEURS THE CHIEFS OF MISSION AND HAS THE HONOR TO REVIEW FOR THEIR INFORMATION CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ANTIHIJACKING SCREENING PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR COMMERCIAL AIRLINES OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1970.

PARTICULARLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ALARMING INCIDENCE OF SIXTY-THREE HIJACKINGS OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN 1972, OF WHICH THIRTY-TWO TOOK PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES OR INVOLVED US-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT, EVERY AIRLINE PASSENGER HAS SINCE JANUARY 5, 1973, BEEN REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO ELECTRONIC SCREENING, AS WELL AS TO THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF ALL CARRY-ON ITEMS, AT TIME OF BOARDING.

THIS PROCEDURE, WHICH REMAINS IN EFFECT, IS MANDATORY AND ADMITS OF NO EXCEPTIONS. A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ALSO EMPLOYING THE SAME OR VERY SIMILAR SECURITY PROCEDURES. DIPLOMATS AND FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ARE NOT EXEMPTED, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE GREATLY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION THEY HAVE SHOWN IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM. IT HAS SOMETIMES HELPED THEM UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR UNIVERSAL SCREENING AFTER IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT, IN THEORY, A WOULD-BE SABOTEUR MIGHT SURREPTITIOUSLY PLANT A WEAPON OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE IN THE CLOTHING OR CARRY-ON LUGGAGE OF ANY INNOCENT TRAVELER.

TO FACILITATE THE EXTENSION OF APPROPRIATE COURTESIES IN CONNECTION WITH BOARDING PROCEDURES, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SUGGESTS THAT, IF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IS PREPARING FOR THE DEPARTURE OF ONE OF ITS COUNTRY'S DIGNITARIES ON A FLIGHT ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES, IT COMMUNICATE THE RELEVANT TRAVEL PLANS TO A PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIRLINE INVOLVED.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, IN TRANSMITTING THIS NOTE TO THEIR EXCELLENCIES AND MESSIEURS THE CHIEFS OF MISSION, SOLICITS THE CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF ALL AFFECTED PERSONS IN SUBMITTING TO THE PRESCRIBED SCREENING PROCEDURES IN THE INTEREST OF GREATER SAFETY IN AIR TRAVEL. KISSINGER

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